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ABSTRACT

This book is a reflection on higher education and a personal memoir of Murray G. Ross, first president of York University (Ontario, Canada), and his role in the founding and shaping of that institution from 1960 to 1970. Parts 1 and 2 provide an intimate glimpse of the university which grew faster and with a more clearly defined mission than most, had more senior scholars per student that other institutions, and displayed several unique features. The first of the two sections reflects the first phase, the university's founding, a romantic idealistic time which lacked practicality. The four chapters of this section discuss early controversies with faculty, and relations with local and national politicians and universities. Part 2 describes a second stage when the university brought in experienced administrators and new professional faculties in the process of becoming more realistic and more progressive in viewing ways to deal with new pressures. These chapters cover the radical years of the late 1960s, relations with the Board of Directors, and selection of Ross's successor to the presidency. Part 3 offers a broader look at the transformations in higher education in the past 40 years and a forecast of what may happen in the next decade. (JB)

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